

CITY LG – July 5-6, 2025

Today's Bible Story: I Think It's About . . . Forgiveness (Forgive One Another / Jesus Forgives Peter) • *Colossians 3:13 (Supporting: John 13:36-38; 21:1-19)*

Today's Bottom Line: Forgive one another.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.* Romans 15:5 (NIRV)

WORSHIP

Sing Wherever I Go
Free

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everyone! I'm so glad to see you here today! My name is *(your name)* and I absolutely LOVE coming here to The City!

I think you'll be so happy you came too, because we're going to have lots of fun discovering how to live and love others like Jesus. When we do that—when we live and love like Jesus—it can actually change the world! Now, that might sound hard but check out what the apostle Paul wrote in the book of Romans.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had. —Romans 15:5, NIRV

We'll talk more about that in a few minutes, but first, let's kick off our fun with another team competition! That's right, Red Team and Blue Team are competing all summer long with a series of games. So, let's get started with our next competition!

Divide the room in half. Assign red and blue teams

We're going to play a game we like to call 'Reverse Charades'. It's a lot like regular charades, but instead of one person acting something out and everyone else guessing, everyone on your team will act something out and a leader will try to guess the answer!

So, when it's your team's turn, your team leader will stand on the stage, facing the audience. Then, behind their head, you'll see something on the screen. **Do not say what it is!!** Just look at the picture and start acting it out. If your leader guesses the answer correctly, you'll go to the next one. The team who gets the most correct answers in one minute, wins!

Okay, let's try a practice round to make sure everyone understands.

SLIDE: Reverse Charades Slides

Choose one Small Group Leader to represent each team as the guesser. Let each team do a practice round of guessing one word. Remind kids not to say the name of what they see on the screen, but to just act it out until the leader guesses it correctly.

Keep score, play as many rounds as time allows, and declare a winner for the day.

That was so fun! And congratulations to the *(Blue or Red)* Team for winning this week's competition. And if your team didn't win this week, don't worry! You'll have another chance to win every week this summer!

If we want to love like Jesus, we need to forgive one another. So, today we're going to talk about a time when Jesus forgave someone else. Our story begins in the book of John. John is the fourth book of the New Testament in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*

John wrote down the true stories from the life of Jesus to show that Jesus is God's Son. When Jesus lived on Earth, He chose disciples to follow and learn from Him. One of them was a fisherman named Simon Peter. Let's check out our story.

VIDEO: Bible Story 10:58

Even though Peter wasn't perfect, even though he abandoned Jesus when Jesus was arrested, Jesus forgave him. Let's stand up for our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line
SLIDE: Bottom Line

Forgive one another.

SLIDE: Theme

Peter must have been SO relieved that Jesus forgave him. When someone forgives you, it's like a heavy load is lifted off your shoulders. Jesus chose to forgive Peter, and Jesus forgives us for the wrong things we've done. And Jesus forgives us the moment we ask! Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins so that we could be forgiven . . . and so that we could have a relationship with God that will last forever! So, in response, we can choose to forgive others when they've wronged us.

And when we don't forgive, our anger can get bigger and bigger and make us absolutely miserable! It's better for the other person, and for us, when we forgive!

Now, it's also important to know that choosing to forgive doesn't mean that you should let anyone keep hurting you. If that happens, tell a grown-up you trust right away! But when you forgive, it frees you from getting bitter and thinking about it all the time. Instead, focus on how Jesus loves us and forgives us all the time!

Forgiving others is one way we 'Live It Out' and discover how to love like Jesus. Let's pray.

Dear God, thank You so much for forgiving us for the wrong things we've done. We all mess up sometimes. Thank You for loving us so much Jesus came to pay the price for our sins and to make a way for us to experience forgiveness. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

In The City, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. For the rest of 2025 we are going to help kids and adults who live right near us! We are collecting our offering for Shady Oaks Camp for People with Disabilities in Homer Glen, IL. If you were at Summer Jam, you heard a lot about Shady Oaks. Raise your hand if you have ever been to any kind of summer camp? Well, this camp is just like that one, but it is set up for kids and adults who have physical challenges. Their mission is to give these kids and adults the same kind of camp experience that kids without disabilities can enjoy. Let's check it out.

VIDEO: Missions Night 1 (Runtime:)

Wow! You can see how much fun the kids and adults with disabilities have when they attend Shady Oaks Camp! What an amazing experience that is for them. We are raising money to support the camp in all they do for people with disabilities. So, think about what you can do to earn money to help Shady Oaks Camp!

SLIDE: Theme